

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for facilitating handover between base stations in a communication system comprising:
  - averaging measured signal strength associated with transmission from a first base station over a long interval to obtain a long term average;
  - averaging measured signal strength associated with transmission from the first base station over a short interval to obtain a short term average;
  - subtracting the long term average from the short term average to obtain an intermediate result;
  - determining a standard deviation of the intermediate result;
  - determining, based on the standard deviation, signal strength fluctuation associated with transmission from a first base station to obtain a first result;

determining signal strength fluctuation associated with transmission from a second base station to obtain a second result; and combining the first and second results to obtain a hysteresis factor for handover.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining signal strength fluctuation associated with transmission from the ~~first~~ second base station comprises computing standard deviation of received signal strength associated with the transmission.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein computing standard deviation comprises:

averaging measured signal strength associated with transmission from the ~~first~~ second base station over a long interval to obtain a second long term average;

averaging measured signal strength associated with transmission from the ~~first~~ second base station over a short interval to obtain a second short term average;

subtracting the second long term average from the second short term average to obtain ~~an~~ a second intermediate result; and  
determining standard deviation of the second intermediate result.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 1, wherein the standard deviation is recursively determined over a span of transmission samples from the first base station.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein determining the standard deviation includes using a memory factor for weighting.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the memory factor is selected to provide exponential weighting.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 1, wherein the intermediate result is a function of a delay factor that depends on a first averaging window for the long term average and a second averaging window short term average.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the first and second averaging windows each have a fixed length.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein combining the first and second results involves adding them together and then multiplying them by a scaling factor.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
  - calculating a handover cost function as a function of the hysteresis factor;
  - selecting a base station based on the handover cost function.
11. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the memory factor is equal to 0.1.
12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the scaling factor is in the range of 1.5 to 2.

13. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon a set of machine-executable instructions that, when executed by a data-processing system, cause the system to perform a method for facilitating handover between base stations in a communication system, the method comprising:

averaging measured signal strength associated with transmission from a first base station over a long interval to obtain a long term average;

averaging measured signal strength associated with transmission from the first base station over a short interval to obtain a short term average;

subtracting the long term average from the short term average to obtain an intermediate result;

determining a standard deviation of the intermediate result;

determining, based on the standard deviation, signal strength fluctuation associated with transmission from a first base station to obtain a first result;

determining signal strength fluctuation associated with transmission from a second base station to obtain a second result; and

combining the first and second results to obtain a hysteresis factor for handover.

14. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 13, wherein determining signal strength fluctuation associated with transmission from the ~~first~~ second base station comprises computing standard deviation of received signal strength associated with the transmission.

15. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 14, wherein computing standard deviation comprises:

averaging measured signal strength associated with transmission from the ~~first~~ second base station over a long interval to obtain a second long term average;

averaging measured signal strength associated with transmission from the ~~first~~ second base station over a short interval to obtain a second short term average;

subtracting the second long term average from the second short term average to obtain ~~an~~ a second intermediate result; and

determining standard deviation of the second intermediate result.

16. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim ~~15~~ 13, wherein the standard deviation is recursively determined over a span of transmission samples from the first base station.
17. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 16, wherein determining the standard deviation includes using a memory factor for weighting.
18. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the memory factor is selected to provide exponential weighting.
19. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim ~~15~~ 13, wherein the intermediate result is a function of a delay factor that depends on a first averaging window for the long term average and a second averaging window short term average.
20. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the first and second averaging windows each have a fixed length.

21. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 13, wherein combining the first and second results involves adding them together and then multiplying them by a scaling factor.

22. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the method further comprises:

calculating a handover cost function as a function of the hysteresis factor;

selecting a base station based on the handover cost function.

23. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the memory factor is equal to 0.1.

24. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the scaling factor is in the range of 1.5 to 2.